

# Keeping You Posted

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## WORLD BOARD ANNUAL MEETING

# Foreign Policy Reform Sought

Economic justice issues and a report on human rights violations in key areas of the world figured prominently at the 177th annual meeting of UC Board for World Ministries in Raleigh, NC in Nov.

On economic justice issues, the World Board sought legislation that would ease the debt of Third World countries and called for a halt to the Reagan Administration's building up of foreign military aid at the expense of developmental aid.

Citing figures that the world's seven poorest countries were in debt to Western banks for almost one trillion dollars, UCBWM recommended a package of reforms, including slashing interest rates or even writing off all or part of the debts, extending the repayment time, setting a ceiling on debt service at no more than 20% of a country's export earnings and converting debts into grants for development projects.

Turning to American foreign aid, the Board asked for a halt to the Reagan Administration's shifting of priorities from economic to military aid. UCBWM noted that in 1980, food and development aid amounted to 53% of U.S. foreign aid, but by 1986, it had slipped to 38%.

At a special open hearing on human rights violations, the president of Amnesty International claimed torture is used as an instrument for governing in 67 countries of the world. William Wipfler challenged the church to press Washington to make human rights issues part of its foreign policy.

Another speaker, Colin Jooste, an exiled South African minister now living in Connecticut, advised Americans, "Don't feel guilty; feel responsible" in dealing with human rights violations. Later, during business sessions, corporate members opposed multinational loans to countries with records of human rights violations.

In other action, the World Board urged the reunification of North and South Korea along with a reduction in the area of the military presence of both the U.S. and the Soviet Union. Corporate members also sent a letter to President Reagan requesting that he take "risks for peace," including the possible abandonment of his "Star Wars" program.

The board of directors adopted a 1987 budget of \$11.9 million, up 8.9% from 1986.

## UCC Paper on Economics/Theology Calls for Action on 'Biblical Mandates'

A paper raising personal, churchwide, national and global questions about economics and theology will go to UCC churches, associations, conferences and seminaries Jan. 15. A study process has been recommended.

The UCC's Economics and Theology Covenant Group completed "Christian Faith and Economic Life" in Dec.—not as a finished theology, but to prompt discussion.

Against the modern view of economics as a separate science, the paper outlines "biblical mandates" for seeing economic activity as a dimension of faith. It analyzes "the inadequacies of contemporary economic systems" and suggests a system more consistent with "Christian principles of economic justice" would do six things. The system would seek to fulfill everyone's basic material needs, involve all people in economically rewarding

## OCIS Votes on Civil Disobedience

Office for Church in Society directors, meeting in New York in Nov., voted support for the tool of civil disobedience.

Their resolution, based on the New Testament teaching that Christians must "obey God rather than people," suggests criteria for staff and UCC members considering civil disobedience. UC Board for World Ministries adopted a similar resolution in May 1985.

Civil disobedience is appropriate, according to the resolution, when a government "violates fundamental Christian principles, requires adherence to systematically unjust laws or government policies, or endangers the welfare of the human community." Such actions should occur, the directorate said, only when other efforts for change have been "seriously pursued" and when civil disobedience can be conducted "in a consistently non-violent manner." Participants, it said, should have "extensive knowledge" of the issues and be ready to accept consequences.

The directors also urged increased funding for the United Nations and asked that Synod call for a child advocacy campaign.



William C. Winslow

(L-R) Video still of World Board executive vice president Scott S. Libbey congratulating NC's Henry Curtis McDowell for founding an Angolan mission in 1919 funded and staffed by African-Americans. UCBWM's was the first annual meeting to be videotaped gavel to gavel.

activity, build communities of dignity and well-being, respect human rights and enhance freedom, use natural resources responsibly and promote international peace.

Noting that "the pursuit of economic justice entails sacrifices," the paper suggests ideas for personal study, action and lifestyle changes and calls on the church to evaluate its educational mission, employment practices, stewardship of resources, service ministries and public advocacy accordingly.

Formed in 1980, the covenant group wrote the paper in response to a 1983 General Synod directive. A response form accompanies the paper; a study guide will be ready Feb. 1, and the group has asked conferences to schedule open hearings in 1987. Comments received will be used in writing a proposed pronouncement for GS 17 in 1989.

**What's Inside**  
UCC-Disciples Committee  
Looks at Baptism, page 4

**Clergy Team Gives  
Advice on Getting  
Along, page 3**

**Continuing Ed  
Prevalent in  
UCC, page 3**

**Pension Boards Drop  
Alternative Funds  
Proposal, page 3**



## THEOLOGY FORUM

# Goal in Church Union

By Robert Welsh

To understand the new ecumenical partnership between the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), it is necessary, first of all, to understand the nature of the unity which is being pursued.

From the outset of this new venture, our denominations have said to each other that we are not seeking a merger of our two churches; we are not following the path taken by the United Church of Christ in its 1957 union. The way ahead is directed toward neither institutional oneness, nor a "lowest common denominator ecumenism" in the compromise of beliefs, histories, practices, or theologies.

Rather, as stated in the report adopted by the 1985 meetings of our General Synod and General Assembly, the unity we seek is "a dynamic process of sharing gifts" which will produce "new patterns of life which exemplify greater diversity and flexibility than is now present in our separate denomina-

tions. All agree that unity does not mean uniformity. Rather, union not only permits, but positively requires, great diversity."

In our journey together, our churches have claimed five theological starting points to guide, inform, and direct this new approach to church union.

First, the goal we seek is not an organizational merger of our separate structures; rather, our goal is to be a more faithful church in witness, service, and proclamation of our common faith in Jesus Christ.

Second, the unity we seek is not something we will create through our own efforts, achievements, or agreements; rather, it is already present as a gift of God to us and to all who follow Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

Third, the unity we seek is centered in our active participation in God's mission to overcome the world's brokenness, alienation, and separation among all peoples.

Fourth, the unity we seek is discovered

as we gather at the Lord's Supper, the place where the church and the world intersect in the presence of Christ and from which Christians are sent forth to serve and to love.

And fifth, the road to unity is neither a detailed map to follow, nor a blueprint from which we work; rather, it is primarily a pilgrimage of faith and faithfulness in following the leading of God's Spirit beyond the familiar and the well-worn paths of our past traditions and practice.

Ecumenical partnership is thus an invitation to Disciples and UCCs at every level (congregations, conferences, regions, and national instrumentalities) to join together in shaping a new approach to union around the areas of church life where it matters most—not the merger of our structures, but in obedience together in joint mission, common worship, and confessing the faith.

Robert K. Welsh is staff coordinator for the Ecumenical Partnership Committee and associate ecumenical officer for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). KYP asked him to write this column to mark the "Week of Prayer for Christian Unity," Jan. 18-25, and "Ecumenical Sunday," Jan. 25.

## Priorities Report

### Youth/Young Adult Ministries

Four students living in an apartment at the Church of Christ at Dartmouth College (UCC) in Hanover, NH are the nucleus of the church's college-age group. Some 16 students gather each Sunday evening for a meal and informal discussion on whatever is on their minds. One recent discussion was about why some young people in Eastern Europe think the United States is a "fascist theocracy." "Oddly enough, we've discovered that opportunities for students to do this on campus are few and far between," says pastor Donald Mackenzie, Jr. The church also has occasional college-age retreats and music-centered "cafe" events for church members of all ages, but especially for college students.

### Justice and Peace

Members of Pleasant Hill (TN) Community Church last month used a "Peace Advent" calendar prepared by the church's peace committee. It was designed to encourage prayer, reflection and journal-writing. Among its daily entries were scripture passages, a "World Peace Prayer" and suggestions like this: "Describe what justice would look and feel like for someone in South Africa, Central America or the Middle East."

### Family Life

The best family ministry a congregation can provide is to see itself as a family—and for

its members to interact in a way that sets a good example for the smaller families within the church. Further, ministers can learn about their leadership styles by looking at the families they come from. Those are among the theories behind recent and coming workshops and study groups in the Southern Conference, sponsored by UCC-related Elon Home for Children, Elon College, NC. The next scheduled ones will be in Reidsville, NC in Feb. and Mar. Robert Stogner, Elon's director of family and community services, recommends Edwin Friedman's *Generation to Generation: Family Process in Church and Synagogue* (Guilford Press, 1985).

### Spiritual Renewal

Unlike the "Dial-A-Prayer" recording in many cities, the prayer line at Scottsdale (AZ) Congregational UCC gives callers a 30-second message about people in need of prayers. The line was activated recently because information that went out through the church's prayer chain did not always reach people and its accuracy was difficult to ensure. However, the prayer chain remains available to get information out in emergencies.

The 1987 prayer calendar of Zion UCC, Blain, PA, names members and families of the church to pray for each day. It also includes the dates and times of church meetings and events and features prayer-related scripture texts.

## Justice Books Look at Debt Crisis, Shopping

Two new justice resources are recommended by the UCC's Hunger Action Office.

*The Global Debt Crisis: A Question of Justice* examines how the money owed by developing countries to financial institutions and governments affects the lives of the people there. Includes Bible studies, personal testimonies and worship suggestions. \$3 each, \$2 for 10 or more, from Interfaith Foundation, 110 Maryland Ave., NE, Suite 509, Washington, DC 20002, 202-543-2800.

*Add Justice to Your Shopping List* takes readers on a shopping tour through a grocery store to reconsider food buying habits. It suggests ways consumers can get the best food for the best buy and looks at justice questions associated with particular products. Includes recipes for convenience foods. \$2.25 a copy from UCC Hunger Action Office, UC Board for World Ministries, 475 Riverside Dr., New York, NY 10115.

## Recommended No Longer

In Nov., KYP recommended an ABC-TV special called "The Kingdom Chums: Little David's Adventure," now described as the first in a series of such presentations. Before recommending it, we read the show's script and tried to make sure it wasn't an excuse for a heavy merchandising scheme. Now, the special's originators are singing the praises of its "extended merchandising impact"—including toys, cassettes and records, and even stationery and greeting cards. Therefore, KYP retracts its recommendation.



# Relationships Need Attention On Multiple-Minister Staffs

To keep their working relationship healthy, the two pastors of Orrville (OH) UCC, Mark Steiner and Robert (Tiff) Bates, get out of town monthly to plan for the coming weeks—and to talk about their differences.

That kind of intentional effort can help team ministers avoid competition and “gopherism,” says Robert Naylor, a regional associate of the Office for Church Life and Leadership. He says “gopherism” occurs when the associate “is called upon to do most of the tasks the senior pastor doesn’t want to do—everything from attending ‘lesser’ meetings to preaching on the Sundays after Easter and Christmas.”

Mr. Steiner, 50, and Mr. Bates, 35, took tests and had counseling at the interdenominational Career Development Center in Columbus, OH soon after Mr. Bates took the associate’s position in Orrville in 1985. That experience and their ongoing efforts to talk about work and feelings have helped their teamwork, they say. For example, they disagree on how confirmation should be done, but each knows the other’s position and they’re ready to handle the topic should it come up in a committee meeting.

## New Booklet Goes Over Divorce Law

Pilgrim Press has just published a booklet that clergy can use to help parishioners who have decided to go through with a divorce.

*Divorce Law: A Concise Guide for Clergy and Laity* gives clear and succinct information about legal procedures involved in a divorce. It covers key issues in state divorce law; offers suggestions on selecting a legal representative; evaluates such current trends as equitable distribution, joint custody and no-fault divorce; and lists ways church members can be advocates for fairness in divorce. Author Mary S. Winters is a consultant to UC Board for Homeland Ministries on legal and legislative questions.

\$1.95 from Pilgrim Press, 132 W. 31 St., New York, NY 10001, 212-239-8700.

## PERSONNEL CHANGE

BARBARA J. ESSEX began work Nov. 11 as secretary for racial and ethnic educational ministries at UC Board for Homeland Ministries. She designs and develops special ministry and education resources for racial and ethnic minorities in the UCC. Formerly a teacher of English and reading in two Chicago high schools, she was associate pastor of Chicago’s Good News Community Church for the past year.

“If you’re going to work together, you have to be vulnerable,” Mr. Steiner says. “You have to be willing to admit your mistakes.” And Mr. Bates hopes the wider UCC will start to recognize the associate’s job as valuable in itself, not just as a stepping stone to a “higher” position. “Associates can sometimes do things that senior pastors can’t,” he says. “The church needs to see that there’s a real advantage to having associate pastors and put some money and resources into developing it.”

Men and women working together have extra problems to consider, says Betty Jane Bailey, associate minister of Union Congregational Church in Upper Montclair, NJ, who is doing her D. Min. project on mixed-gender staffs. Issues of men’s and women’s authority, different styles of leading and thinking, personal intimacy and the congregation’s expectations can add to the usual ambiguities about the senior and associate roles, she says.

Mr. Naylor notes that OCLL’s regional staffers have offered training events for team ministers. He also recommends resources of the Alban Institute, 4125 Nebraska Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20016, 202-244-7320.

## Many UCC Pastors Choose To Continue Their Education

“It is now common practice for pastors to take continuing education courses,” reports Reuben A. Sheares II, executive director of the Office for Church Life and Leadership.

Many pastors are studying for the D. Min. degree, a structured continuing education program instituted in 1970. According to Jackson Carroll of Hartford Seminary, CT, this doctorate is designed as an in-service degree for those doing ministry. Pastors attend classes two days a month for three to four years. Course requirements for the D. Min. vary drastically from seminary to seminary, a problem the schools are working on.

## Divestment Tops UCC Press Coverage

UCC efforts to divest in companies doing business in South Africa topped denominational coverage in the secular press in 1986, reports the Office of Communication.

The second-biggest story was the Freedom Riders campaign led by the Commission for Racial Justice and the third a statement by UCC president Avery D. Post and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) general minister and president John O. Humbert opposing U.S. attacks against Libya.

A feature on UCC divorce ministries, including a service in the new *Book of Worship*, was next, followed by the news of

## Pension Boards Nix Alternative Funds

The Pension Boards’ trustees have voted unanimously not to set up optional South Africa-free investment funds. In line with the Executive Council’s request, they have chosen instead to “explore alternative ways” to implement General Synod 15’s call for divestment. PB holdings in firms with South African interests have dropped to 25.5% from 41% in 1985.

Meeting last month, the trustees also voted to divest the \$2.7 million Evangelical Synod and Reformed Sustentation Funds.

## ‘What Has Helped?’ Asks Clergy in Crisis Team

What helps pastors avoid or overcome significant crises in their ministries?

That is the question the Clergy in Crisis Response Implementation Team would like all UCC clergy to answer. The team is revising “The Clergy in Crisis Resource Folio,” and it needs to hear about materials, programs, institutions and people that have been helpful to ministers in dealing with tough personal and professional situations.

Send ideas to “Clergy in Crisis,” Office for Church Life and Leadership, UCC, 105 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016.

Even more pastors take occasional non-credit courses and workshops, usually ranging from a day to a week in duration, from a variety of institutions and seminaries.

The Alban Institute, for instance, while based in Washington, DC, organizes workshops at colleges and seminaries around the country. Auburn Seminary offers noncredit residency programs at its New York City campus.

Academic or continuing education credits are given in a third type of program, such as the cooperative summer classes offered by Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, CA.

Benjamin Chavis’ installation as CRJ executive director and updates on headquarters’ location recommendations and on the UCC-Disciples partnership.

Just released at the time of this article but expected to get heavy coverage were UCC studies on sexuality, TV employment and women in the church.

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SEND NEWS stories, PHOTOS and OPPOSING VIEWS of 100 words or less to political or social stands taken in a particular article to KYP, Office of Communication, UCC, 105 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016.



## Pastors Are Weak On Church Music, Say Organists

Pastors may need to know more about music, according to a leading musicians group and UCC pastor Tom Hunter, an adjunct music professor at Pacific School of Religion.

Ministers are often reluctant to seek advice from church musicians, contends the American Guild of Organists. Pointing out that music and worship are not required courses at a majority of seminaries, the group claims many pastors are not equipped to cope with their job's musical demands.

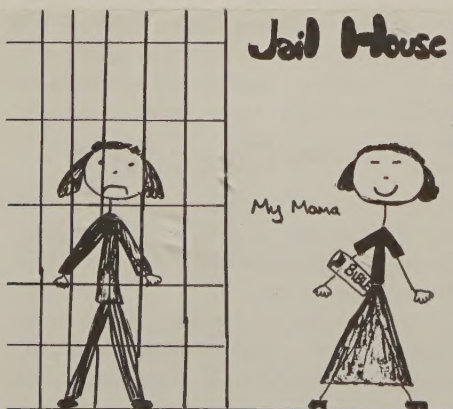
Mr. Hunter suggests closer working relationships between clergy and musicians. As a result, he says, pastors can discover new avenues to worship via song lyrics and musicians can learn more about worship needs.

"There are some wonderful phrases in the old hymns and anthems we sing," explains Mr. Hunter. "Those images can lead to new worship ideas."

*Reformed Worship: Resources for Liturgy and Music*, a quarterly periodical for worship planners, costs \$15 a year. Contact CRC Publications, 2850 Kalamazoo Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49560, 616-246-0753.

## UC Scene

HOWARD M. MILLS, president of United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities since 1983, has been elected general secretary of the General Council of the United Church of Canada, that denomination's highest administrative post. He assumes the Toronto-based position July 1. Dr. Mills, a Canadian with dual standing in the UCC here and there, was United Church of Canada division of ministry personnel and education secretary from 1976-1982. The 2.2 million member denomination is Canada's largest Protestant church.



To mark "UCC Women's Week," Feb. 1-7, "my mama will visit a woman in jail," Karen Kaufman, the 10-year-old daughter of the Coordinating Center for Women's editorial assistant, explains of her drawing. The week celebrates the gifts UCC women bring to the church and the world.

## UCC-DISCIPLES PARTNERSHIP

# Committee Examines Baptism

A theological statement on baptism, a new joint worship service and a partnership experiment among churches in upstate New York dominated the agenda at the Nov. meeting of the Ecumenical Partnership Committee of the UCC and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The 22-member panel voted that there are no theological barriers to keep the two churches from recognizing each other's baptisms, despite differences (UCC churches often baptize infants, and by sprinkling; the Disciples usually baptize adults, and by immersion). The committee will make baptism recommendations in 1989 to General Synod

and the Disciples' General Assembly based on an internal working paper, in which it agrees with views on diversity in baptism set forth in documents of the World Council of Churches and the Consultation on Church Union.

The committee is producing a study guide that also will draw from the paper. The guide will discuss baptism, eucharist and a new liturgy the committee is writing to celebrate the partnership. GS 16 and General Assembly will use the liturgy this year.

As for the New York experiment, the committee learned that the Disciples' Northeast Region and the Western Association of the UCC's New York Conference have created a common "Western Area" with its own covenant, "area council" and officers. It exists not only for shared work in missions, education and church life, but also in "church and ministry" matters such as granting a new kind of "mutual standing" to ministers. Some UCC people in the area oppose the experiment on the grounds that it infringes on the Western Association's authority.

## OPPOSING VIEW

*Reacting to a Dec. story on kids at worship, Robert K. Nace, senior pastor of Zion's Reformed Church, Greenville, PA, writes:*

I suspect when the statement says "to include children fully in worship" it is not suggesting they must sit silently through every sermon but rather the issue is "full participation in the Lord's Table."

Surely inclusiveness is a central value of our Faith but perhaps we have become so sensitive about exclusiveness that in the process we have lost touch with other important values of our Faith.

In thinking about Advent it seems to say incarnation cannot be realized without preparation and there is a time to say "not yet."

"Not yet" is a different matter than exclusion and perhaps it is a word from our Faith that needs to be underscored in our day.

There is ferment over this issue in the UCC. It causes difficulty when youth meet in regional gatherings or families move from parish to parish. I believe we need a broad and open discussion among us on this issue.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

A theological event and Central America observances are set for early 1987.

Lectures, panels and worship will be part of Bangor Theological Seminary's annual convocation Jan. 26-28 at Hammond Street Church. Cost is \$5. Contact BTS, 300 Union St., Bangor, ME 04401, 207-942-6781.

UC Board for World Ministries asks pastors to raise Central America concerns during worship Mar. 22 and throughout "Central America Week," Mar. 21-29. Write Inter-Religious Task Force on Central America, 475 Riverside Dr., Rm. 563, New York, NY 10115.

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